



NEWSLETTER



**January,
February &
March 2013**

**Windham
County
FSA Office**

71 Westcott Rd
Danielson, CT
06239

860-779-0557 phone
860-779-0607 fax

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Staff

Dawn S. Pindell,
County Executive
Director

Ronald Clark,
Farm Loan
Manager
860-887-9941

CONGRATULATIONS

to Timothy Young of Woodstock elected new County Committee Member. John Wolchesky, 1st Alternate and Diane Miller, 2nd Alternate

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

If you need storage for crops you grow, the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program offers low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The application fee is \$100. Producers are required to provide a down payment of 15%; CCC will lend 85% of the eligible cost of new storage facilities and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms vary from 7 to 12 years and interest rates vary from 1.125% to 2%.

Loan amounts can be made in two equal disbursements; partial and final. The final disbursement is made after all construction is completed. Submit your application in the county you reside. No prior work can begin until the loan is approved by the County Committee.

Rates as of December 1, 2012	
Farm Operating - Direct	1.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.125%
Farm Ownership – Direct, Joint Financing	5%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	1.75%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	1.875%

Promotion

Diane Holowaty came to our Brooklyn office as a Program Technician in 1981. In the past few years she has worked as the Key Program Technician position assisting all of Connecticut FSA while also working in her county position. She has developed expertise in Geographical Information Systems; and with MIDAS, a new model of program management that FSA is developing. Recently she was promoted to Administrative/GIS Specialist at the Connecticut State FSA Office effective December 31st. Diane has been a dedicated and valued employee in Windham County for 31 years. We will miss her but wish her all the best in her new position!

Program Technician for Hire

This position will be posted on USAJobs.com. Closing date of January 1, 2013. Grade level will range from CO-3 \$21,840.00 to CO-7 \$33,979.00 based on experience, education and agriculture background. All applications must be submitted through USAJobs.gov. The successful applicant start date will be contingent on security clearance which includes an FBI National Criminal History Check. The hours of work are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is committed to providing clear and concise explanation of its farm loan process, and is pleased to announce the online publication titled “Your guide to FSA Farm Loans.” The guide, written in “plain language”, provides information about FSA’s farm loans and loan servicing options. A list of additional resources is also included. The guide is available online at www.fsa.usda.gov/dafl.

◆Guaranteed Loan Limit

In addition to direct farm loans, FSA will work with farmers to obtain loans through a local farm lender or bank. These loans can now be guaranteed up to \$1,602,000.00. The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

◆Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Operating type loans and loans to purchase or improve farms are available to all eligible producers; socially disadvantaged groups may obtain priority funding. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

Youth Loans

Rural youth with agricultural projects or planned projects can borrow up to \$5,000.00 through the FSA Youth Loan Program. Eligible ages are 10 to 20 years old. The project must be modest in size, educational and initiated, developed and carried out by the youth who is participating in 4-H, FFA or a similar organization. The project should produce enough income to repay the loan. This program is offered to help teach youth about practical business skills while developing agriculture projects. The loan rate is fixed for the term of the loan with around 1.5% interest.

2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program Applications

Farms that had crop losses of more than 10% in 2011 may apply for SURE through June 7, 2013. The SURE Program payment is equal to 60 percent of the difference between the crop guarantee and revenue.

To be eligible for the 2011 SURE Program, producers must have crop insurance on all insurable crops. For crops that are not covered by crop insurance such as pumpkins and cucumbers, producers must have purchased Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage through FSA. The Crop Insurance and NAP purchase requirement is waived for crops that are not economically significant to the farming operation. Contact our office or visit: www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/

IRS 1099 Changes

For 2012, IRS Form 1099-G or MISC will be sent only to farms with program payments above \$600.00. Farms with multi-county activity will receive one form covering all counties they participate in.

Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period

Hispanic or female farmers who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000 can file claims by **March 25, 2013**. Register for a claims packaged at 1-888-508-4429 or www.farmerclaims.gov. The process will be administered by an independent legal services company. There is no filing fee and no lawyer is required to participate. People seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

NAP Coverage Deadlines

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Service fees of \$250 for one crop; to \$750 for all applicable crops are due when the application is filed. NAP covers crop losses above 50%. Fees must be paid by these closing dates:

	Connecticut NAP Application Closing Dates for 2013 Crops
9/1/2012 Prior Year	Christmas Trees, Mollusk, Flowers
11/20/2012 Prior Year	Alfalfa, Asparagus, Blueberries, Cane berries, Cherries, Clover, Currants, Grapes, Gooseberries, Grass, Mixed Forage, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Rhubarb, Strawberries
12/1/12 Prior Year	Honey, Maple Sap
3/15/2013	Beans, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cantaloupe, Carrots, Cauliflower, Crenshaw Melon, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Garlic, Greens, Gourds, Herbs, Leeks, Lettuce, Onions, Peas, Peppers, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Radish, Shallots, Soybeans, Squash, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatoes, Turnips, Watermelon

Throughout the crop year producers must notify the county office in writing within 15 days of damage or notice of damage. A Loss Adjustor may be sent to review the crops. NAP payments are calculated using reported crop acreage; approved yield; net production; 55% of average market price established by the STC; and a payment factor for unharvested or prevented from being planted.

Sign-up for NRCS Programs

Now is the time to apply for 2013 conservation programs with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Applications can be submitted for financial assistance to improve natural resources on farms, forests, and wetlands. **To be considered for second round funding, applications must be received by February 15th, 2012.**

Popular practices under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (**EQIP**) include nutrient management and waste storage, prescribed grazing with fence and watering facilities, no-till and cover crops, buffers, seasonal high tunnels, energy conservation, and forestry. The Conservation Stewardship Program (**CSP**) offers incentive payments to those practicing good conservation who are interested in enhancing their efforts.

The Agricultural Management Assistance Program (**AMA**) addresses risk management through water management, water quality, and erosion control. Working Lands for Wildlife (**WLFW**) under the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (**WHIP**) promote creation of habitat for the New England Cottontail, a candidate for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

Technical assistance is also available for conservation on a variety of land uses and operation types. If you may be interested, please contact NRCS at 860-779-0557 x 2. These programs are entirely voluntary and are designed to benefit the environment, but many landowners find that conservation benefits are numerous and can also increase profitability and improve public image. NRCS looks forward to exploring conservation opportunities with you.



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